

REMARKS

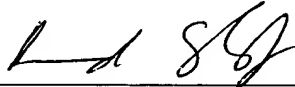
In the above amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2-8 and 10 are pending and submitted for reconsideration.

The courtesy extended to the undersigned by the Examiner during the interview on February 13, 2003 is greatly appreciated. During the interview, it was agreed that claims 2-8 and 10 were allowable over the prior art. The agreement reached during the interview is reflected in the amendment set forth above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/19/03

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SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OF IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.